

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 13135 301245Z

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ACTION EUR-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 13135

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR

SUBJECT: WEU ASSEMBLY: INVITATION TO THE SECRETARY TO
ADDRESS JUNE MEETING

REF: (A) PARIS 2084; (B) STATE 55403

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION ASSEMBLY
INVITES SECRETARY KISSINGER TO ADDRESS ITS PLENARY
SESSION IN PARIS DURING PERIOD JUNE 18-21, 1974. THE
SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE PERMITTING, WE BELIEVE THIS MEETING
WOULD OFFER EXCELLENT FORUM FOR PUBLIC STATEMENT OF HIS
VIEWS ON US-EUROPEAN RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY THE DEFENSE
DIMENSION. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER TO SECRETARY KISSINGER
DATED MAY 20, 1974 FROM EDMOND NESSLER, ACTING PRESIDENT
OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN UNION, INVITING
THE SECRETARY TO ADDRESS THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY AT ITS
SESSION IN PARIS, JUNE 18-21. LETTER AND ENCLOSURE
HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO EUR/RPM MR. DAVISON.

"DEAR DR. KISSINGER, I AM MOST GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR
ARRANGING FOR THE COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE QUESTIONS AND
ARMAMENTS AND THE GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TO BE
RECEIVED IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT WHEN THEY VISITED THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 13135 301245Z

UNITED STATES IN MARCH. THESE DISCUSSIONS HAVE PROVED

TO BE MOST VALUABLE IN THE PREPARATION OF THE REPORTS ON 'CONSULTATION AND DECISIONS IN THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE' BEING PREPARED ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENCE COMMITTEE BY MR. JULIAN CRITCHLEY AND ON 'OBSTACLES TO AGREEMENT BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES ON SOLVING PRESENT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS' BEING PREPARED ON BEHALF OF THE GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE BY MR. HELLMUT SIEGLERSCHMIDT.

"AT A MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE THE CHAIRMEN OF THE TWO COMMITTEES EXPRESSED THEIR GREAT APPRECIATION OF THE ARRANGEMENTS MADE TO RECEIVE THEM IN THE UNITED STATES, AND THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE HAS ASKED ME TO ENQUIRE WHETHER YOU WOULD BE PREPARED TO ADDRESS THE PLENARY ASSEMBLY AT ITS FORTHCOMING SESSION IN PARIS TO BE HELD FROM 18TH TO 21ST JUNE. FOR YOUR INFORMATION I ENCLOSE THE DRAFT ORDER OF BUSINESS FROM WHICH YOU WILL SEE THAT THE TWO REPORTS I MENTION ARE TO BE DEBATED ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH, AND THURSDAY, 20TH JUNE.

"MEMBERS MUCH APPRECIATED YOUR LAST THOUGHT-PROVOKING ADDRESS TO THE ASSEMBLY GIVEN IN AN ACADEMIC CAPACITY ON 3RD DECEMBER 1963 AND ARE AWARE THAT IT IS NOW SIX YEARS SINCE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES ADMINISTRATION, IN THE PERSON OF THEN UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE MR. NICHOLAS KATZENBACH, LAST ADDRESSED THE ASSEMBLY - THE ONLY PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY WITH STATUTORY DEFENCE RESPONSIBILITIES. WHILE THE ASSEMBLY CONTINUOUSLY REVIEWS TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS, IT HAS HAD TO DO SO RECENTLY IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY AUTHORITATIVE STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN POINT OF VIEW, AND I PERSONALLY MUCH REGRET THIS SITUATION.

"I THEREFORE HOPE VERY MUCH THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ADDRESS THE ASSEMBLY AT THE NEXT SESSION."

3. COMMENT: WE RECOGNIZE THAT WEU ASSEMBLY MEETING COMES HARD ON HEELS OF NATO MINISTERIAL IN OTTAWA, AND MAY NOT BE CONVENIENT TIME FOR SECRETARY TO VISIT PARIS. IF, HOWEVER, THE SECRETARY'S SCHEDULE PERMITS, WE BELIEVE THIS MEETING OF WEU ASSEMBLY WOULD OFFER EXCELLENT FORUM FOR PUBLIC STATEMENT OF SECRETARY'S VIEWS ON US-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PARIS 13135 301245Z

EUROPEAN RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY THE DEFENSE DIMENSION. SHOULD THE SECRETARY NOT ACCEPT THIS INVITATION, WE SUGGEST HE KEEP OPEN OPTION FOR HIS POSSIBLE ATTENDANCE AT SUBSEQUENT ASSEMBLY SESSION (ASSEMBLY MEETS SEMI-ANNUALLY IN PARIS, USUALLY IN JUNE AND IN NOVEMBER). NASA ADMINISTRATION FLETCHER WILL ADDRESS THE ASSEMBLY ON THE AFTERNOON OF JUNE 18.
IRWIN

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